



Embassy of the United States of America
Mauritius and Seychelles

**U.S. Embassy, in collaboration with Ministry of Finance Trade and Economic Planning
and the Office of the Registrar General, Promote Intellectual Property Rights Among
SMEs in Seychelles**

May 11, 2021: Strong intellectual property rights protection and enforcement are essential to create jobs, promote economic prosperity, and foster investment in innovation and development. The U.S. Embassy, in collaboration with the Seychelles Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Trade and the Office of the Registrar General, is pleased to launch a virtual training workshop on Intellectual Property Rights for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) on Zoom from 2pm to 3.30pm on Thursday, May 13 and Friday, May 14. The agenda and speaker bios are provided as attachments.

The training is free and open to the public. We request that participants register in advance here:
<https://statedept.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsdO2hbj8iGQ30iNsZE7pxmudM5tl8x5k>

During the virtual training, participants will learn about the different types of IP protection that they can use to add value to their businesses. Participants will also receive instructions on the different steps that they can take to register their IP assets in Seychelles.

This workshop has been funded by the U.S. Department of State's Economic Bureau to mark World Intellectual Property Day 2021, which was celebrated on April 26.

U.S. Embassy Chargée d'Affaires Judes E. DeBaere and Minister responsible for Trade, Mr. Naadir Hassan will open the training on Thursday, May 13. Ms. DeBaere encourages the participation of Seychellois who own SMEs. She said, "SMEs have the potential to promote domestic-led growth and strengthen the resilience of Seychelles' economy. It is therefore important for you to protect your idea, innovation or creation before you bring it to market."

Minister Hassan welcomes the workshop targeting SMEs to register their Intellectual Property, especially now that Seychelles is looking to diversify its economy.

"We are working to transform the economy, thus encouraging SMEs to grow their business and even export their products beyond the borders, and that is why these entrepreneurs need to know about the importance of registering their products, ideas and innovations."

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